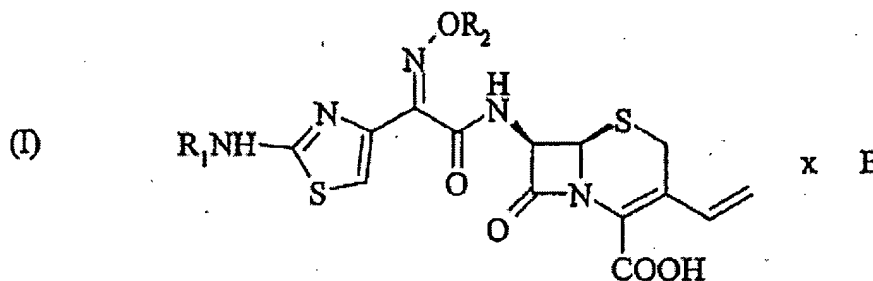


**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) Salts of formula (I)



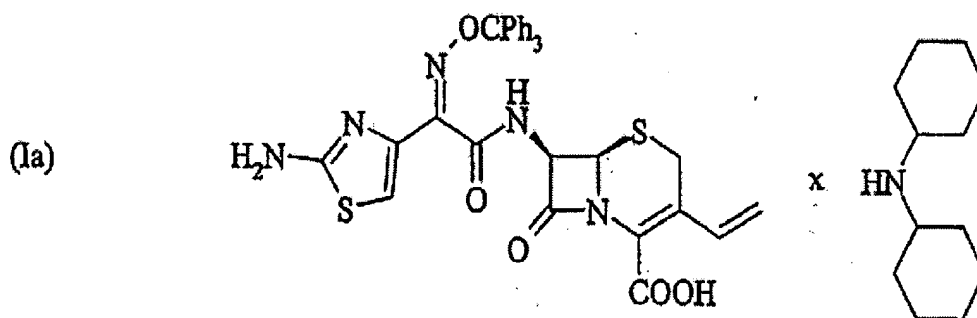
wherein

- $R_1$  is hydrogen or an amino-protecting group, selected from  $C_1$ - $C_6$  acyl group optionally substituted with one or more chlorine or fluorine atoms, an alkyl- or aryl-oxycarbonyl group, or a trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy and/or methyl groups;
- $R_2$  is a hydroxy-protecting group selected from a straight or branched  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group, a benzyl, benzhydryl or trityl group wherein each benzene ring is optionally substituted with one or more methoxy, nitro and/or methyl groups;
- $B$  is ammonia or an organic base selected from primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, guanidine, amidines; solvates or adducts thereof.

2. (Original) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein  $R_1$  is a formyl, tert-butoxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, or trityl group.
3. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein  $R_2$  is a tert-butyl, p-methoxybenzyl, 3,4-dimethoxybenzyl, benzhydryl, bis(p-methoxyphenyl)methyl and trityl group.
4. (Original) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein  $R_1$  is hydrogen and  $R_2$  is trityl.
5. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a primary amine selected from cyclohexylamine, 2-ethylhexylamine, benzylamine,  $\alpha$ -methylbenzylamine and tert-octylamine.
6. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 in which B is a secondary amine selected from diethylamine, morpholine, dicyclohexylamine, N,N-methylbenzylamine or N, N<sup>1</sup>-dibenzylethylenediamine.
7. (Original) Salts as claimed in claim 6 wherein B is dicyclohexylamine.
8. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is a tertiary amine selected from triethylamine, tributylamine, triisooctylamine, ethyldiisopropylamine, N-methylmorpholine, pyridine, 2,6-lutidine or quinoline.
9. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine.

10. (Previously Presented) Salts as claimed in claim 1 wherein B is 1,5-diazabicyclo[4.3.0]non-5-ene (DBN) or 1,8-diazabicyclo[5.4.0]undec-7-ene (DBU).

11. (Original) Salts of formula (Ia)



12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of salts as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of cefdinir~~ A method of producing cefdinir, comprising providing a salt of claim 1; and removing the hydroxy-protecting R<sub>2</sub> group; wherein when R<sub>1</sub> is not hydrogen the amino protecting R<sub>1</sub> group is removed from the salt.